THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) Bills to the domestic consumers with sanctioned load of less than 11 KW are issued by DESU on an actual reading basis once in four months. In between a bi-monthly bill is issued on a provisional basis. In other categories, the bills are issued on a monthly basis. During the period when the meter is defective and awaiting replacement, DESU charges provisionally depending on the past average consumption or on the sanctioned load, wherever past average consumption is not available. When the meter is replaced an assessment is made for the period meter had been defective. Arrears are charged for the meter-defective period, in case the amount arrived at on assessment after replacement of the meter is higher than the provisional billing during the period, then the assessment is revised as per the tariff rules and conditions of supply for the period the meter had been defective. All previous provisional or ad-hoc bills as well as amounts actually paid are considered for adjustment in such cases.

Shortage of New Currency Notes

*316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 119 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a servere shortage of new currency notes in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent the shorage of new currency notes would be met after setting up of new currency note printing presses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) It has not been possible to fully meet the demand of fresh currency/bank notes.

(b) The capacity of the two-new currency note presses would be around 9900 million pieces per annum. This together with the present capacity will be adequate to meet the demand for fresh currency/bank notes in the country.

Functioning of UPSEB in Hilly Areas

*317. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received complaints against the functioning of UP State Electricity Board, particularly, in the hilly Districts;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one cash collection counter at Pauri, District-Pauri Garhwal to meet the needs of the entire district thus causing much inconvenience to the consumers;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to open some new counters near Kandiyunun Sain, Acharikhal or near Pauri for the help of consumers for depositing their electricity bills conveniently;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Inspectors never visit for physical meter reading, particularly in village-Bara, and there is no remedy to the public against overbilling in villages of Pauri Garhwal, District; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to set right the affairs of UP State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) The State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies created by the respective State Government in terms of the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Central Government does not have any direct control over their day-to-day activities like opening of new cash collection counters, physical-verification of meter reading etc. However according to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, cash towards payment of electricity bills is collected in Pauri-Garhwal District at various places viz. Pauri, Kotdwar, Srinagar, Kalagarh, Jchrikhal (Lansdown), Satpuly,